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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

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SALT

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GENEVA FOR CSCE

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. FRIDAY PAPERS FEATURED TURK CYPRIOTS DECLARING INDEPENDENCE; DAYS SINCE PAPERS HAVE FRONTPAGED KISSINGER TRIP. MONDAY NYTIMES ALSO FRONTPAGED SOVIET-US SPACE FLIGHT NEARING READINESS; BALTSUN HEADLINED GERMANS TELL KISSINGER THEY MAY ARM TURKEY; TUESDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGED KISSINGER GROMYKO DISCUSS ARMS AND TRADE; TODAY'S PAPERS ALSO FRONTPAGE BRITAIN OFFERS SOVIET TWO-BILLION TRADE CREDIT. COMMENT SCATTERED.

1A. FRIDAY WASHPOST INSIDE HAD VIENNA SQUIB ON TROOPS IN EUROPE; SATURDAY PAPERS HAD BRIEFS ON SALT ONE; WASHSTAR HAD BRIEF ON NITZE. SUNDAY NYTIMES INSIDE REPORTED RUSSIANS USED ATOMIC DEVICE IN 1971 CANAL DIG. MONDAY NYTIMES HAD VERY BRIEF MOSCOW UPI, SOVIET PLANS ARMS EXERCISE NEXT MONTH IN WESTERN PART OF COUNTRY. TUESDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAVE FORD MAY TRAVEL TO EUROPE; NYTIMES HAS GENEVA, SECURITY TALKS MOVING TO FINALE.

2. TROOPS. FRIDAY WASHPOST WORLD ROUNDUP ITEM FROM VIENNA SAID NATO AND SOVIET BLOC FACED A NEW IMPASSE IN TROOP

REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WHEN WESTERN NATIONS REJECTED A COMMUNIST DEMAND FOR AN IMMEDIATE MILITARY MANPOWER FREEZE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, AS WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAID WARSAW NATIONS SOUGHT TO LEGALIZE EXISTING IMBALANCES THAT GIVE THE COMMUNIST ALLIANCE A 20 PERCENT ADVANTAGE. THIS IS ONLY PRESS STORY NOTED ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. SALT. SATURDAY WASHPOST HAD GENEVA BRIEF HEADED ARMS LIMITS, SAYING US AND SOVIET UNION REPORTED PROGRESS IN CLARIFYING QUESTIONS ON WHETHER THEIR SALT ONE AGREEMENT CURBING NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAS BEEN VIOLATED; NEITHER SIDE GAVE ANY DETAILS. ITEM ADDED THAT EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS WAS CONDUCTED BY SCC WHICH SUPERVISES THE SALT AGREEMENT. SATURDAY WASHSTAR VERY SIMILAR; SATURDAY BALTSUN IDENTIFIED ITEM AS GENEVA AP AND ADDED SCC SESSION WAS OPENED JAN. 28 FOR WHAT PRESIDENT FORD CALLED AN EXAMINATION OF "AMBIGUITIES" IN THE AGREEMENTS.

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3A. SATURDAY WASHSTAR HAD UNSIGNED PIECE SAYING NITZE, IN AN INTERVIEW ON ABC'S "AM AMERICA", CHARGED THAT NIXON'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT USE OF AMERICAN INTERPRETERS HAMPERED US NEGOTIATORS AT THE FIRST ROUND OF SALT TALKS. NITZE SAID NIXON PREFERRED USE OF SOVIET INTERPRETERS BECAUSE OF LACK OF FAITH IN DISCRETION OF AMERICAN INTERPRETERS AND THAT NIXON TOOK THIS STAND BECAUSE OF AN OBSESSION WITH SECRECY AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN LOYALTY

AND SECURITY OF THOSE WORKING IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

3B. REVIEW PIECE IN SUNDAY NYTIMES SAYS SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS ON MISSILES CAN BE INTERPRETED IN TWO WAYS: 1, VLADIVOSTOK PUT A CAP ON THE ARMS RACE AT A LEVEL NOT YET REACHED BY EITHER SIDE BUT PROBABLY PLANNED BY BOTH AND US PLANS TO BUILD UP TO THOSE LEVELS; OR 2, SCHLESINGER MAY BE TELLING SOVIET LEADERS DOD WOULD PREFER A NEW AGREEMENT FOR STOPPING SHORT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK-AUTHORIZED CEILINGS. PIECE CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT IF US MIRVS UP TO PRESENT CEILING IT WOULD COST MANY ADDITIONAL BILLIONS IN NEXT HALF-DECADE BEYOND THE FOUR BILLION BUDGETED FOR THE 1050 EARLIER PLANNED.

4. KISSINGER. MONDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED A GENEVA SPECIAL SAYING KISSINGER AND GROMYKO BEGAN TALKS ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, INCLUDING NEW PROPOSALS MADE BY THE TWO SIDES ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, ALSO EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE, WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAYING THE THREE-AND-HALF HOUR SESSION WAS MARKED BY OCCASIONAL

SHARP DIFFERENCES. SPECIAL STORY REPORTS BOTH GROMYKO AND KISSINGER IN ARRIVAL STATEMENTS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS TO THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, ADDING THAT NEWSMEN ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE WERE GIVEN RUNDOWN ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CURRENT RELATIONS, INCLUDING SALT. SPECIAL SAYS RUSSIANS AT GENEVA SALT IN PAST MONTH HAVE SUBMITTED A DRAFT DOCUMENT TO WRAP UP THE DETAILS OF VLADIVOSTOK, WHICH DOCUMENT WAS SAID TO INCLUDE SOME OF MOSCOW'S "PET IDEAS," TROUBLE-SOME FOR US TO ACCEPT, AND TO BE DEFICIENT IN INSPECTION PROCEDURES. ACCORDING SPECIAL, US PLANS TO SUBMIT ITS OWN PROPOSALS ON VERIFICATION OF THE OFFENSIVE ARMS UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCORD, BUT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FOUR TO SIX MORE WEEKS OF SPARRING BEFORE THE TWO SIDES GET DOWN TO SERIOUS DISCUSSION, ALSO THE PACE OF SALT WILL DECIDE THE EXACT TIME OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO AMERICA, TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY, BUT NEWSMEN WERE TOLD DATE COULD BE SEPTEMBER. SPECIAL ADDS US BELIEVES CSCE IS MAKING PROGRESS, ALSO NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESUMED IN MOSCOW ON PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS WHERE US IS SUBMITTING NEW PROPOSALS ON MAKING SURE THESE EXPLOSIONS ARE NOT IN FACT MILITARY TESTS.

4A. MONDAY WASHPOST BERGER SIMILAR ON SALT BUT SHE SAID REPORTERS WERE TOLD KISSINGER WOULD NOT BE OFFERING GROMYKO A NEW SALT PROPOSAL BUT WOULD BE PRESENTING THE AMERICAN POSITION TO BE PUT ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE

LATER, ON RULES FOR COUNTING MISSILES, PLANES AND MULTIPLE WARHEADS.

4B. TUESDAY WASHPOST BERGER LONDON REPORTS THAT REPORTERS WERE TOLD THAT DURING GENEVA DISCUSSIONS KISSINGER PRESENTED A NUMBER OF AMERICAN IDEAS FOR IMPLEMENTING VLADIVOSTOK, ALSO THRESHHOLD BAN, BOTH OF WHICH WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY RECEIVED. BERGER ADDS THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN JOINT STATEMENT NOTED THAT A GREAT DEAL OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED AT CSCE AND SAID THE TWO COUNTRIES ASSUME THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED PERMIT ITS CONCLUSION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

4C. TUESDAY BALTSUN LONDON AP STRESSES KISSINGER PRESENTED NEW, UNDISCLOSED PROPOSALS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONTROL AND TRADE TO GROMYKO AND RAN INTO SOME SHARP DIFFERENCES ON HIS MIDEAST STRATEGY. ACCORDING AP, US OFFICIALS SAID KISSINGER WENT INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL WITH MR. GROMYKO ON WAYS TO WRAP UP THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY WHILE MAKING COUNTERPROPOSALS TO THE SOVIET

POSITION IN THE LAGGING TALKS, BUT AGREEMENT COULD BE READY FOR A LATE JUNE SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON OR SPARRING COULD DELAY BREZHNEV VISIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER; KISSINGER GROMYKO STATEMENT PLEDGED TO CONTINUE ENERGETIC EFFORTS TO WORK OUT AN APPROPRIATE LONG-TERM AGREEMENT THIS YEAR.
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5. CSCE. TUESDAY NYTIMES FLORA LEWIS GENEVA REPORTED THAT DESPITE REMAINING IMPORTANT POINTS OF DISPUTE SUCH AS THE PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE NATIONS TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF MILITARY MANEUVERS AND TO INVITE MILITARY OBSERVERS, THE SOVIET CAMPAIGN FOR A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING THIS SUMMER TO CONCLUDE CSCE IS GAINING ADHERENTS BECAUSE EVERYONE FEELS THE CONFERENCE HAS GONE ON TOO LONG. ON MONDAY, WHILE GROMYKO WAS EN ROUTE TO GENEVA, MOSCOW ANNOUNCED MILITARY MANEUVERS IN EUROPEAN RUSSIA, AN ACTION INTERPRETED AS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE TIMED TO HELP GROMYKO PROD KISSINGER FOR QUICKER CONFERENCE RESULTS.

5A. TUESDAY BALTSUN HAS WASHINGTON AP HEADED FORD PLANS FALL TRAVEL OVERSEAS, AP REPORTING FORD IS PLANNING A BUSY AUTUMN SCHEDULE OF FOREIGN TRAVEL TO EUROPE AND CHINA; IT IS LIKELY EUROPEAN JOURNEY WILL BE TIMED SO HE CAN PARTICIPATE IN A HELSINKI SUMMIT, BUT THAT DEPENDS ON PROGRESS IN 35-NATION TALKS. ONE SOURCE GUESSED SUMMIT SIGNING WOULD BE IN OR NEAR SEPTEMBER; AND NESSEN RULED OUT AN APRIL TRIP.

6. COMMENT. SATURDAY NYTIMES HAD EDITORIAL NOTING COOPERATION AND FRATERNIZATION BETWEEN US AND RUSSIAN SPACE TEAMS IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE JOINT APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT AND DOCKING EXPERIMENT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SUMMER, AND FACT THAT BOTH SIDES EMPHASIZE THEIR CONFIDENCE THAT FLIGHT WILL TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED. TIMES SEES THIS COOPERATION AS A SYMBOL OF DETENTE SHOWING HOW GREATLY WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE THE COLD WAR ERA OF THE 1950S AND THE SPACE-RACE OF THE 1960S.

6A. SUNDAY WASHINGTON STAR EDITORIAL ON LARGEST DEFENSE BUDGET IN HISTORY SYMPATHIZED WITH GROWING NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS WHO CRITICIZE A DEFENSE BUDGET INCREASED AT COST OF MUCH NEEDED SOCIAL PROGRAMS, BUT STAR CONCLUDED THAT US MUST HAVE, AT THE VERY LEAST, AN ARSENAL CAPABLE OF SURVIVING ANY FIRST STRIKE AND RETALIATING WITH DEVASTATING FORCE. MAW

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